

April 13, 2023

Dr. David Baltrus
Associate Professor
School of Plant Sciences
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences


Dear Dr. Baltrus,

I am writing to congratulate you on being selected for a Distinguished Scholar Award. This award was established to acknowledge outstanding mid-career faculty who are leading experts in their fields and highly valued contributors to the teaching, research, and outreach priorities set out in the University's Strategic Plan. You were selected because your colleagues made a compelling case for the vital importance of your contributions and the worldwide impact of your achievements. Your nomination was reviewed by a committee of distinguished faculty who chose you from among the most outstanding mid-career faculty from across campus.

The committee recommended your selection because of your excellence in research, teaching, and service. You are developing cutting-edge research on applied evolutionary plant pathology to develop experimental systems relevant to Arizona stakeholders. Your nominators highlighted the importance of your research on the development of antimicrobials that can target strains of important human pathogens found in agricultural fields. You have also excelled in your entrepreneurial efforts by creating a new company focused on developing probiotic bacteria for pets to synthesize pleasant-smelling molecules within dogs' mouths. Your engagement in teaching has led to the creation of courses, active learning engagement activities, and project-based teaching. Your commitment to inclusive excellence through mentoring has been demonstrated by mentoring more than 60 undergraduate research students. Moreover, you constantly promote the participation of underrepresented groups in science to work in your lab. The committee highlighted your work with the National Summer Undergraduate Research Program (NSURP) that assured underrepresented students to work on research projects during the summer of 2020. The breadth of your contributions is as impressive as the scholarly impact that you are having. I have concurred with the recommendation of the review committee that you be given this recognition.

You will receive a one-time allocation of \$10,000 in University funds to further your scholarly work and the title of Distinguished Scholar. Please ask your business manager to contact Nina Bates at ninaari@arizona.edu to discuss and arrange for the transfer of funds before the end of the current fiscal year.

We look forward to recognizing your achievements at a special event in 2024. In the coming months, further information on this special event will be sent from the Office of Presidential



Events and University Ceremonies. I hope that you, your family, friends, colleagues, and students will be able to attend this celebration.

Your accomplishments and leadership bring distinction to the University of Arizona. Thank you for your contributions and congratulations on this well-earned recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Folks', with a stylized, flowing script.

Liesl Folks, Ph.D., MBA, FNAI
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

LF/AAP

CC: Shane Burgess, Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
David Galbraith, Professor and Director, School of Plant Sciences
Janis Rutherford, Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration